

LONDON CABLE LETTER

Events in Europe and Asia Gathered by Correspondents in the British Capital.

London, Sept. 3.—Dog lovers throughout Europe are shocked at the cruelty inflicted on the 20,000 parish dogs which the Constantinople municipal authorities dumped on the island of Ochia.

The British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has sent to Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign minister, a protest against the treatment of the dogs, which is described as unworthy of a government endeavoring to fall in line with the customs of western civilization.

It is a curious fact, that while the ordinary Turk considers it inhuman to kill a dog, he seems to be quite indifferent to a dog's sufferings while it is alive. A visitor to the island describes the scene thus:

"A picture of misery and desolation met our eyes. Dead and dying animals were to be seen everywhere. I saw dogs lying their dead companions. The flies were perhaps not so numerous as about a month ago. Nevertheless, we were surrounded by them, and were only able to shake them off when we got out of the island again."

In the midst of the dead, dying, and agonizing dogs there were many which still preserved their robust and fat appearance, but the lack of fresh water will doubtless bring these to the same state as the others. There are some half dozen men on the island who feed the dogs twice a day, for which purpose bread is imported weekly.

"The dogs are quieter and seem more resigned. They greeted us on landing by wagging their tails and brushing up against us as if to say: 'Take us away from this inhospitable place.' Several tried to swim behind the dingy when we were leaving the island, but which had to abandon the attempt, owing to their weak condition. The death rate of the dogs is about 90 per cent."

It was announced that the municipal authorities had resolved to poison the dogs wholesale and bury them in quicklime, but nothing so far has been done. Meanwhile an enterprising Frenchman has opened a business in the bones and skins of the dogs.

His object is to export the skins to Berlin, Paris, and London to be converted into gloves, but London glove makers say that the use of dogskin for gloves is impossible, owing to its non-elasticity. The gloves that are called dogskin are made from sheep and lamb skins. The curing of dogskin is also too expensive, except for special purposes.

Queen Mary is enjoying her stay at Balmoral. She spends most of the day with her children and together they drive all about the country. One of the first places they visited on their arrival was the one village shop of Balmoral, kept by two sisters, Maria and Anne Symon.

This is a sort of general emporium for all the village necessities, from a darning needle to a milk churn; but it has one great specialty. The sisters have the monopoly of selling the Balmoral and Victoria tartans, designed by Queen Victoria herself.

The first is a combination of grays and blacks in checks with a red interlacing line and is used for the kilts of the gillies and outdoor servants on the Balmoral estate. The Victoria tartan is a more gaudy arrangement of greens and reds on a white ground, and is used for dresses, cloaks, rugs, and plaids.

The Symon sisters' little shop has been in existence for many years and has always been visited by the royal family and guests at Balmoral. The younger members of the party always get a great deal of amusement by going behind the small counter and selling toys and sweets to each other.

In the little back parlor the aged mother of the present owners many times gave tea to royal visitors, and many

on his investigations in the schools of Cologne.

Colored yarns of various tints and shades were pinned upon cards and placed before the pupils, who were asked to designate each color by name. In all 1,800 children of various ages were subjected to the test.

The result, in Dr. Warburg's opinion, furnishes conclusive evidence that color perception is acute or dull in proportion to the degree of mental development of the pupil. The percentage of correct answers rose from class to class and was invariably highest among the most intelligent children.

It was found in the course of the experiments not only that the eye is more sensitive to certain colors than to others, but also that the relative degree in which different colors impress the mind is definitely ascertainable. Thus Dr. Warburg has been able to draw up a color scale, grading different hues according to the strength of the impression they make.

White and black are the easiest colors to recognize. Red, yellow, green, and blue follow in the order named, though blue is much harder to perceive than green. Of another class and far more difficult to recognize are brown, gray, and violet. The perceptive power of girls is much more acute than that of boys. It is pointed out that the result of the tests which show that two-thirds of all cases of color blindness are among men.

A club for "lady servants" is shortly to be opened in London. The main object of the club, according to the secretary, is to give such servants an opportunity of enjoying the social life of which their position often deprives them.

People would be astonished, she says, if they knew how many ladies have gone into domestic service in the last few years. Many of them belong to distinguished old families, and others are the daughters of doctors, clergymen, and lawyers.

The chief hardship in the career of a lady who becomes a servant, it is pointed out, is the lack of congenial society, but she will be lonely no longer. In future she will spend her evenings out at the club.

The club rules permit members to invite male friends to dine at the club and enjoy a quiet rubber of bridge. Members will not be encouraged to talk shop. Bridge for small stakes may be indulged in, and country members on a visit to town will find in the club all the luxuries of a London hotel.

A story is being told in London to the effect that "a well known American society favorite" recently played an amusing practical joke upon the other guests at the country house she was visiting. One evening she contrived to get into the rooms of the guests before the dressing gong sounded. She then grasped the inside handles of all the doors.

Innocent of what had been done, each guest pushed the door to as he or she went in. When the dinner gong sounded the few in the secret walked up and down the corridor outside the bedrooms listening to the struggles that were going on inside each door and to the language used by some of the men as they vainly strove to get out. Prime Minister Asquith, it is said, was one of the victims of this joke.

The announcement that an empress has been masquerading in man's clothing loses much of its romance when it is known that it relates to the adventures of the Empress Taitu of Abyssinia.

It appears that, finding the Abyssinian capital a dangerous place in which to sojourn longer, she recently attempted flight in male clothing. It was her intention to seek refuge with her brother, Ras Olie, who is governor of one of the southern provinces of the Abyssinian Empire, but she was captured on the outskirts of the capital and forcibly brought back to the palace.

The empress is suspected of designs on the life of the young Emperor of Abyssinia, who, it is stated, recently ascended the throne in place of Menelik, and she is the object of bitter detestation on the part of the predominant party at the Abyssinian court.

The same species of swamp cypress that grows in Florida to-day once flourished in great profusion on Spitzbergen, says Count de Geer, the leader of a Swedish geological expedition which has just returned from an exploration trip to that bleak and ice-bound island.

The expedition found geological strata which are described by Count de Geer as one colossal herbarium in a fossilized state. They justify the assumption that in early periods the entire north polar region was one vast low-lying plain covered with dense forest.

Evidence of the early vegetation now present themselves in extensive coal deposits, which a newly-formed company is beginning to work. It is expected that 30,000 tons of Spitzbergen coal will be shipped next year. To-day no plant grows on Spitzbergen taller than an inch or two at the most.

Michael Bari, of Budapest, has addressed a protest to the Hungarian Parliament against the lenient treatment which has of late been extended to prisoners convicted of murder. As he is the public executioner the reason of his action is obvious.

Capital punishment has become so rare in Hungary that he finds himself unemployed for the greater part of the year. As he must live he has demanded either a regular salary or that there shall be fewer reprieves.

Richard Coeur de Lion's tomb has, according to the Paris Illustration, been discovered in the ancient abbey at Fontevraud, in France. Six Plantagenet princes, including two kings, were known to have been buried in the abbey, but all traces of the tombs were lost.

M. Magne, inspector general of historic monuments in France, was commissioned to restore the abbey after it has ceased recently to be used as a prison. In clearing the nave of the old church, M. Magne caused an old wall to be pulled down, and there some curious figures were seen on the original wall of the transept. They consisted of decorative motives, a golden cross with twin branches on a black background, with an arch which still had traces of paintings representing a shield and golden leopard. Below, with the partly effaced name of Elisabeth, were those of Richard, Henry, and Alienor.

On digging down deeper four sepulchres were found, with the feet turned to the east. These were the tombs of Richard Coeur de Lion of Alienor, Henry II, and Elisabeth, or Isabella, of Angouleme, and sculptured inscriptions served to identify them. In making transformations in the abbey in the sixteenth century the builders had cut off a portion of the head of the tomb of Henry II and they simply placed the skull at the feet.

Paris is still feeling the effects of the January floods and is a particularly unpleasant manner, for three plagues have settled down on the city, moths, fleas, and rats.

A dealer in an anti-moth specific told the correspondent that he never remembered such a busy season. Moths seemed to be everywhere, and their presence was generally considered to be due to the floods.

Fleas, of course, are common enough all the year round in Paris, but this year the left bank of the Seine has been invaded, and around the observatory quarter, a particularly fashionable residential part, some householders have been driven to their wits' end by the pests.

Rats, too, are common in Paris, as any one who has walked along the boulevards after 3 a. m. can testify. They come out from the iron gratings around the base of the trees and scavenge the streets, encouraged by the semi-darkness in which even the best Paris streets are kept after 10 o'clock. But this year the houses in the center of Paris and some parts of Montmartre are being overrun. The proprietor of a large beer house in the Montmartre quarter has had to invest in two good terriers, and a newspaper office just off the boulevards has had to call in a rat expert. The floods are held responsible for this invasion also, but it is thought that the building of the many subways has had something to do with it, as in many cases sewers have had to be moved.

The League for the Protection of the Horse, which exists in Paris, slight as may seem the results it obtains, has been

making an inquiry into the lot of the Paris cab horse, and its report of the results lays special stress on the superior condition of horses of cabs driven by women as compared with those driven by men.

The women cab drivers were found to be uniformly kind to their horses and scarcely ever to use the whip and were often seen giving them some little delicacies to eat. At one of the largest stables where cabs are let to drivers the league was told of a mare named Rosette, who was so vicious and bad tempered that no driver was willing to take her out. One of the women drivers asked for her and treated her so well that she became a tractable and useful animal.

GERMAN BIRTH RATE
CAUSE OF ANXIETY
Almost Constant Decrease Is Shown in Berlin.

Berlin, Sept. 3.—Although the population of Germany continues to increase rapidly from year to year, there are not lacking indications that the rate of growth will presently be checked. The decline of the birthrate in certain centers, and especially in Berlin, is giving some anxiety.

Statistics just available show that in that city since 1899 there has been an almost constant decrease in the annual number of births. In that year there were about twenty-eight births to every 1,000 of population. In 1908 there were only twenty-four births to every 1,000, and the decline continued through 1909.

It is now discovered that the number of births in every one of the first six months of the present year fell below that for the corresponding month of the preceding year, so that the average birth rate is rapidly approximating twenty-one per 1,000 of population. The decline is attributed in part to the prevailing economic conditions which have greatly increased the cost of maintaining a family and in part to the unfavorable influence which city life has upon domestic sense.

While there is as yet little prospect of a diminution in the growth of the German people at large, the authorities are carefully watching the situation.

POLICE TRAP GERMAN ELITE.
Wilhelmstrasse Gambling Club Is Scene of Raid.

Berlin, Sept. 3.—A sensation has been caused in Berlin by the revelations which followed a raid made by the police on a private gambling club in Wilhelmstrasse in the early hours of Sunday morning. Over fifty guests were caught.

The raid took place at the luxurious dwelling of Josef Matiske, a director of an assurance company and a rich man. Several years ago he conceived the idea of turning the hours of night to profit, and accordingly he installed in his apartments a roulette table. Then he formed a company to conduct the bank. Shares of five marks to the number of 1,000 were issued, of which he retained 800 for himself.

Only persons of a certain standing in Berlin society were admitted to this gambling club, and none could participate in the play unless he held a share in the bank. Here night after night young men meet together to play roulette, and not a few women were pleased to stake their money.

At the end of each year the bank paid dividends on its shares. Herr Matiske deducting from the profits the cost of keeping up the establishment. It is stated that his income exceeded \$62,000 a year.

At last one of the members of the club, who had lost all his fortune at play, and went to the police and told them the whole story, with the result that a raid was made upon the house. The police confiscated the money lying in the bank, and after taking the names of all present, carried away the roulette table.

AEROS IN MILLINERY.
Monoplane Hat Reaches London from Paris.

London, Sept. 3.—The latest creation in millinery reported from Paris, is the monoplane hat, invented in celebration of Moissant's flight from the French capital to England.

Like the Bleriot, it is a monoplane, with two wings, each over a foot long, spread out on each side of the head. But the chief novelty is the hatpins. These have propellers at their ends, not mere imitations, but real miniature propellers with wooden blades. When a breeze blows the blades revolve gayly as the wearer walks along.

FRANCE TO PENSION ITS WORKINGMEN
Tax on Marriage Portions Among the Queerest.

Paris, Sept. 3.—The sum of \$100,000,000 is needed in the next French budget for the new pensions scheme for workingmen. Before M. Coehery, the minister of finance, left for a holiday he made it known that he would be grateful to any clerk in the finance department who could suggest any new tax to help bring in the necessary sum.

On his return to Paris, M. Coehery found a long list of suggestions awaiting his consideration. Some of them were decidedly original and most of them were highly impracticable. Here are a few of the proposed subjects of taxation:

Bachelors and old maids: all unmarried people over thirty, unless they can prove that they have proposed marriage twice and have been refused, to pay an annual tax till they marry.

Fianos.
First class railway tickets.
Bathrooms in private houses, "these," says the man who suggests the tax, "being an unnecessary refinement."

Original paintings.
Toys.
Plays which have had more than fifty performances and books after their first editions.

A tax on marriage portions is another suggestion, but the queerest of them all is a proposal to tax goldfish. This is suggested by a man who has been in the finance department for more than twenty years.

PARIS DEALERS RAISE FOOD.
Poor Will Be Affected by New Schedule Decided On.

Paris, Sept. 3.—Two thousand five hundred people, whose living depends on supplying food and drink to their fellow-men, have met in Paris and decided that the cost of meat must be increased and the half portion must be abolished.

The reasons for this step were the increase in the cost of the licenses to be paid, increased taxation, increased wages to cooks and waiters, the increased expense caused by the law of weekly rest which provides that employees shall have a day off every week, and the increase in the cost of foodstuffs, fruits, meat, and everything.

It is the feeding places of the poor that are affected by this decision, the kind of place where a typical bill would be:

	Cents
Wine.....	4
Beef.....	2
Half portion beef, with vegetable.....	6
Desert.....	4
Napkins.....	1
Total.....	17

The tip at such a place either does not exist or is one cent, given weekly. If the half portion is abolished and the meat item is to cost 12 cents instead of 6 cents, most of the customers will be compelled to cut out the dessert, as few can afford 23 cents for a dinner.

SUICIDE LIST GROWS
Thousands Take Own Lives in Russia During Year.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 3.—It is a significant phenomenon in Russian national life that as the country is recovering—at all events so it seems to the outside observer—from the effects of the troublous times of 1905 and 1906, the number of suicides has risen. A work by Dr. Jankoff deals with the loss of human life by violent means in European Russia during the last few years and is based on official statistics, which, however, are admittedly incomplete.

In 1905, the pogrom or massacre year, 28,005 lives were destroyed by murder or by execution. The total decreased year by year, until in 1909 only 8,170 persons were killed in this way. These figures include the suicides, which have risen, according to official figures, from eighty-five cases in 1905 to 637 in 1909, 1,832 in 1907, 3,716 in 1908, and 4,099 in 1909.

The number of suicides is especially great in the large manufacturing cities, such as St. Petersburg and Moscow. In the Russian capital the number has quadrupled in the last four years. Some ascribe the increase to the despair in the ranks of the revolutionaries and even in those of the more peaceful reformers at the failure of their agitation and the triumph of the reactionaries.

Pogroms Claim Thousands.
While in 1905 the pogroms alone claimed 25,505 victims, only 1,835 persons perished in 1909 in so-called religious riots. In these periodical disturbances Dr. Jankoff explains, the religious motive is now less apparent than mere lust of plunder.

Terrorist outrages were responsible for 984 murders in 1905, 4,392 in 1906, 6,649 in 1907, 3,318 in 1908, and 1,929 in 1909. The effects of the Russian struggle between the revolutionaries and the autocracy are plainly discernible here. They go hand in hand with the number of executions. From thirty-two in 1905 they rose to 738 in 1906, 664 in 1907, and 975 in 1908.

Last year, 1,467 persons received the death sentence, but only 540 were executed, and 582 sentences were commuted to penal servitude. What became of the other 335 no one knows. Officialdom keeps silence about them.

DANGER IN DUELING.
Paris, Sept. 3.—It would appear that danger lurks in even the most innocent of pastimes. The editor of a French provincial paper avenged his outraged honor by fighting a duel. Having fixed his revolver in the air in the approved fashion, he returned to the editorial chair.

Presently he became aware that all was not right with him, and an inspection of his anatomy revealed the fact that he was bleeding at the thigh. A doctor was called and an examination disclosed a bullet imbedded two inches in the flesh. How it got there is a mystery, for the other duelist discharged his weapon into the air or at least thought that he did.

TURNING TO THE HOLY LAND FOR FOOD
FOR many decades we Americans have drawn spiritual sustenance from the tales and traditions, the legends and the precepts that sprang from the soil of the Holy Land. Now it appears that we are to derive from the same soil the means of bodily nourishment.

In presenting to the public the results of its explorations the department draws some very interesting analogies between Palestine and California. It is stated that the topography of the American state and the ancient historic land is similar to a very high

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PEASANT OF PALESTINE—WILD EMMER.
degree, Palestine, asserts the report, is virtually a California reduced to about one-twentieth the size of the American state, but markedly similar in general topography, climate, vegetation and agricultural and economic possibilities. Given such similar conditions, it follows that the flora of the two countries will bear strong resemblance to each other. This inference is borne

out by the researches and the conclusions of Aaron Aaronsohn, the department's investigator, who is director of the Jewish Agricultural experiment station at Haifa, Palestine. This analogy of the flora of Palestine with that of California justifies the expectations of the best results from their introduction into the last named state," says Mr. Aaronsohn.

Especially interesting in this connection is Mr. Aaronsohn's account of his findings into the history and cultivation of the wild emmer, believed by scientists to be the ancestor of modern wheat, the greatest of the world's cereals, and its important relatives, such as rye, barley, etc. From time dating back before the dawn of history emmer has grown on the rocky slopes of the Palestinian mountains and hills, affording the natives a large percentage of their foodstuffs. There seems to be no doubt, says Mr. Aaronsohn, that by the selection and crossbreeding of this wild cereal, which prefers poor, rocky, shallow, dry soil and thrives without any cultivation, we shall be able to produce new races which will be very persistent and very hardy. In this way we can extend the cultivation of wheat to regions where it is at present impossible on account of the low quality of the soil and the severity of the climate. "The world's total production of wheat will be very materially augmented," says the report.

Mr. Aaronsohn has not confined his investigations in Palestine to the wild emmer. His researches have extended into every variety of plant life in the Holy Land, with a view to its adaptation to American soil and climate. Among other good things he found there is the chick pea, which he calls "one of the most valuable legumes grown in Palestine." In good years this yields twelve bushels to the acre and sells for as much as wheat, and often more. It is there, says the report, a remunerative crop and excellently adapted for use as a rotation crop before wheat. It is asserted that the chick pea will do well in the dry farming regions of the United States.

In a division of the report entitled "Economic Plants Worthwhile of Introduction into the United States" many varieties of fruit are enumerated. There are, it is said, many wild types which are excellent for stock and may yield some valuable results by hybridization and selection, but also some cultivated fruit varieties which would be worth trying in the United States. Among these are the almond, the apricot, the quince, the pomegranate, the olive and the fig.

WALTER P. HUDSON.

SENATOR DICK, SOLDIER AND STATESMAN
WHEN the government of the United States wants information on military matters to whom does it turn? To the same man to whom the state of Ohio looks for advice and guidance in regard to its citizen soldiers. And that man is Major General Charles William Frederick Dick. Don't recognize the name? Well, you are not to be blamed. When the name of the senior senator from Ohio is printed in its usual form from the middle sections are cut out and the name pro-

hard for senatorial military honors is Du Pont of Delaware, whose record in the civil war requires nearly a page of the Congressional Directory for its proper setting forth. But Du Pont never got as high as the wearing of a major general's stars, so Dick would outrank him if it ever became necessary for the president to call out the Senate in defense of the country.

There are a few of the older senators who saw service in the civil war on one side or the other; but so far as patient research can disclose, Senator

As Senator Dick's colleague in the upper national house, Senator Burton, knows everything there is to be known or guessed about rivers and harbors, so Senator Dick has a most comprehensive knowledge of things military. Full evidence of his grasp of the subject was presented a few years ago in the Dick militia or national guard bill, now known as the Dick law. It formulated the present system under which the relations of the federal government with the national guard of the various states are

governed. It substituted for the slipshod, loose system that formerly prevailed a method of co-ordination aimed at making the national guard a really efficient, dependable part of the national defense. It brought the militia organizations into close relations with the war department and provided for standard equipment, drilling of the citizen soldiers by methods approved by the army authorities and raised the standard of the state soldier almost immeasurably. Men old enough to recall the heart-breaking task of fitting the civil war volunteers

for active service and the army men who remember the almost equally discouraging conditions in 1863 give their unqualified approval and unstinted praise to the provisions of the Dick law, introduced and pushed with vigor to a successful conclusion by the legislator who served against Spain as lieutenant colonel of the Eighth Ohio volunteers. Subsequently Lieutenant Colonel Dick became colonel of the regiment.

Major General Senator Dick possesses one indispensable characteristic of the good soldier and the successful politician—that is, he never knows when he is liked. Not that he has been liked so many times since he took up the career of a leader of Ohio's Republican destinies; but, of course, like most of the prominent men of the exceedingly lively political commonwealth, he has known what it means to have a flicker following turn one down. But he has always "come back," and today there is no keener, shrewder, harder political fighter within the boundaries of the state. In one detail alone Dick has made a reputation second to none—that is, as a political prognosticator. He has been known to take a given township, a given county in any part of Ohio and predict with amazing, almost uncanny, certainty how it would go in a primary or general election.

Dick's power of political prediction, joined to his industry and persuasiveness, was the quality in all probability that first brought him to the notice of the great ones in Ohio politics. The two men with whom he was most closely connected before his own star-blaze forth on the state skies were President McKinley and Senator Hanna. The former placed Mr. Dick—then young Mr. Dick then, only thirty-four years old—in charge of the Ohio campaign in 1892 after he had demonstrated his ability in Akron, his home city.

Lieutenant Senator Hanna made Dick his lieutenant, and it is the senatorial toga of the "kingmaker" which Dick is wearing now.

Senator Dick was born in Akron, Nov. 3, 1855. His father was a German miller. After receiving a public school education and working at the banking and grain commission businesses Mr. Dick turned his attention to the law and was admitted to the bar in 1882. Before that time he had engaged in politics, receiving election as auditor of Summit county in 1888 and continuing in that office until 1893. Subsequently he became secretary of the Republican national committee, delegate to Republican national conventions, member of the house of representatives and senator. His continuous connection with the national guard dates back to 1874.

Major General Dick and staff.

Dick is the only one of the ninety-two who saw service in the war with Spain. But he was only a lieutenant colonel then, not a major general. For one man to be at the same time a lawmaker and an armed upholder of the law is not a frequent occurrence. That is what makes Senator Dick's recent action in donning a uniform and leading his troops in person during the Columbus street car troubles so interesting an event. He is no more "in soldier" either. He knows all about the handling of men from long experience.

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